Pollution at Talcher by the Thermal power station and the Hindustan Fertilizers Plant

*266. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages affec ted by the environmental pollution around the Thermal power station and Hindustan Fertilizers Plant at Talcher in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to check the pollution there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY); (a)About 40 Square Kilometers in the Talcher-Angul area is affected by air and water pollution caused by industries including aluminium smelters, coal mines, power plants and a fertiliser unit. The Orissa Government has also identified around 79 villages in the area which have been affected by water pollution.

(b) and (c) The Government have included the Talcher-Angul area in the Special Action Plan for assessment of the pollution load in order to take concerted measures for its prevention and control. The State Pollution Control Board has conducted a survey of the status of pollution in the area. The following steps have been taken to control pollution in the area:

— Emission and effluent standards for have been prescribed. The units have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment within a time frame.

— Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting of industries.

— Ambient air and water quality standards have been evolved and ambient air quality monitoring stations have been set up In 'he area.

— Notification as an air pollution control area,

— Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment.

—Legal action is taken against the defaulting units under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Involvement of M. Ps, at different levels of Development

@*268. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has given any thought as to how the Members of Parliament are to be involved in developmental activities at different levels in village Panchayati Mandal Panchayat|Zila-Parishad, as per Government views expressed in Parliament on the 18th May, 1990 on this issue; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBAR-DHAN): (a-i and (b) Since 18th May, 1990 when the Government stated their views on the question of allocating plan funds on the basis of Parliamentary Constituency, a Conference of Chief Ministers of all the States was convened in Delhi on 11th and 12th June 1990 and issues connected with revitalisation of Panchayati raj institutions were discussed in great detail. Based on common points of agreement, which emerged from that Conference, a Constitution Amendment Bill seeking to confer constitutional status on the Panchayati raj institutions with,

(©Previously starred Question 108 transferred from the 16th August, 1990.

adequate enabling provisions as to safeguarding the interests of weaker sections; devolution of powers etc. has been drafted and will be introduced in Parliament shortly. The proposed amendment recognises that the participation at the various levels of Panchayati raj by various categories of representatives is a matter which belongs to the domain of the State Government.

Induction of new Aircraft by I. A. F due to delay in LCA project

*269. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF intends to induct a new strike aircraft because of the delay in the Light Combat Aircraft;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in the LCA Project; and

(c) by when the LCA prototype would be ready and it would come with squadron service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAIA RAMANNA): (a) No, Sir. However, phasing out of old aircraft and planning for the induction of new aircraft is an ongoing process and is related to the operational requirements of the IAF.

(b) The design and development of a technically advanced aircraft like the LCA involves the integration of complex technologies, complex interface management between a number of expert establishments and the absorption of selected state-of-the-art technologies from advanced countries. The time taken for the identification, evaluation, acquisition and absorption of selected technologies and the lack of advanced infrastructural facilities for optimisation and evaluation of the LCA configuration have also contributed to the d»la$_v$ in proiect execution. The time taken in fina-Iisin<r the strategy for the post Project Definition Phase (PDF) activities in consultation with all concerned establishments, together with the resources crunch, have contributed the delay. also

(c) The roll-out of the first LCA core technology demonstrator platform is expected in 1995. The LCA is likely to enter squadron service early in the next decade.

•270. SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED **Appointment of new Vice Chancellor in the Aigarh Muslim University**

SAQHY: SHRI V. GOPALSAMY;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appea red in the *Times of India* dated the 13th August, 1990 under the caption "Govern ment urged to appoint new Vice-Chaneellor for Aligarh Muslim University"; and

(b) if so, what are the specific reasons for not appointing a Vice Chancellor for Aligarh Muslim University so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The post of Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University> fell vacant on 4-10-1989. According 't$_0$ Statute 2(1) of the Statutes of Aligarh muslim University, the Vice-Chancellor of the University is to be appointed by the Visitor from a panel of at least three persons recommended by the Court from a panel o^ five persons recommended by the Executive Council. It has not been possible to appoint a Vice-Chancellor because the Court has not recommended any panel to the Visitor (President of Tndia) for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor

Financial outlay of National Wastelands Development Board

*271. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the financial outlay of the National Wastelands Development Board for each year since its inception;